

Planning for the Whole Community

Integrating and Coordinating Emergency Preparedness, Response and Recovery for Children and Adults with Disabilities and Others with Access and Functional Needs Before, During and After a Disaster.

April 2012



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About FEMA

FEMA's mission is to support our citizens and first responders to ensure that as a nation we work together to build, sustain, and improve our capability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate all hazards.



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FEMA's Role in a Disaster



- Always in support of the State
- Always by request
- Domestic



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"It is time children, people with disabilities or any other segment of our communities who have traditionally been underserved, to be more fully and consistently integrated into preparedness and planning efforts at every level of government."

Craig Fugate, FEMA Administrator



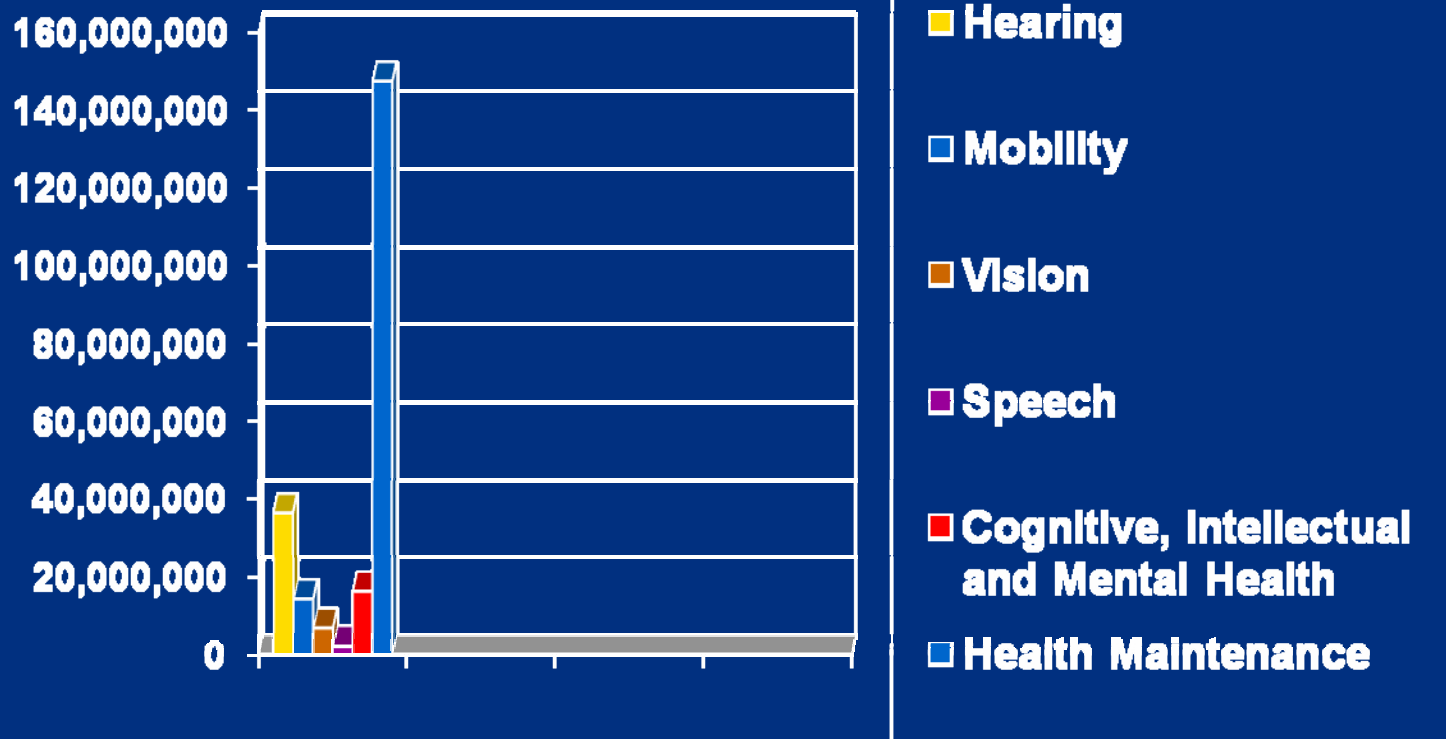
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Disability Facts

- 56.4 million Americans (20% of the population)
- Women are disproportionately represented.
- 11 million children and adults over age 6 need personal assistance with everyday activities
- Around 21% of the population ages 16 and older with a disability are below the poverty level
- Globally, there are one billion people with disabilities

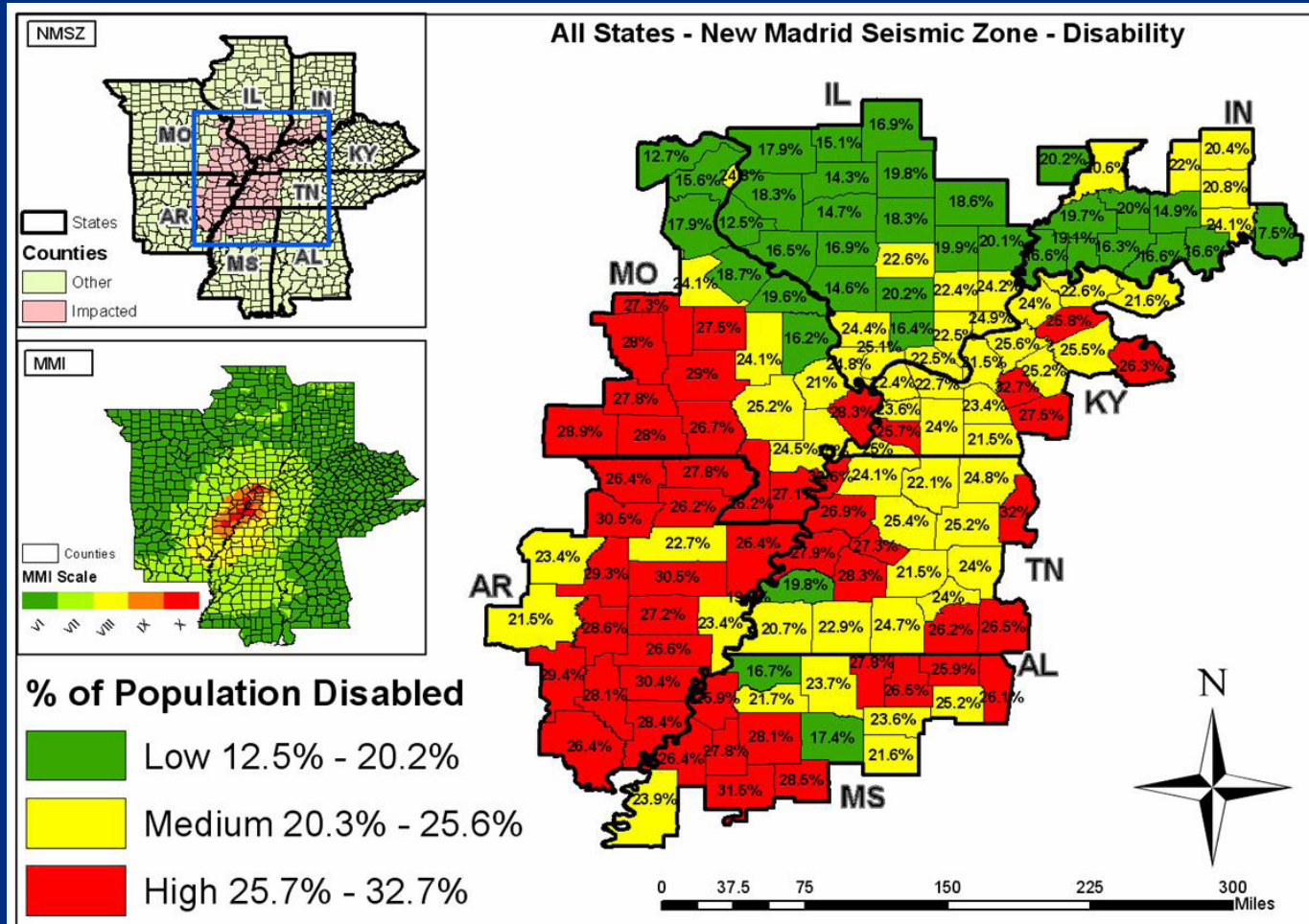


Types of Disabilities and Health Maintenance Needs



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NMSZ Percentage of People With Disabilities

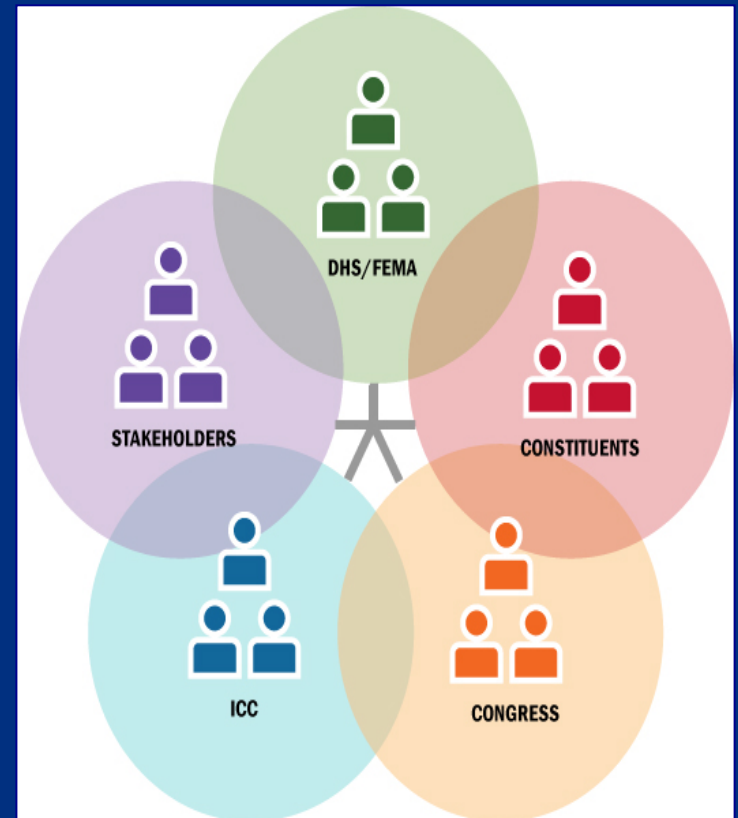


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Office of Disability Integration and Coordination

Mission Statement

In accordance with Federal civil rights laws and regulations, provide guidance, tools, methods and strategies to integrate and coordinate emergency management inclusive of individuals with access and functional needs.



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Federal Laws Prohibiting Discrimination in Emergency Programs on the Basis of Disability

- Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990
- •Stafford Act of 1988
- •Rehabilitation Act of 1973
- •Fair Housing Act Amendments of 1988
- •Architectural Barriers Act of 1968
- •Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (EHA) of 1975
- •Telecommunications Act of 1996

Each provides affirmative obligations and prohibitions of discrimination on the basis of disability.

No State or local government, or its contractors, in providing services may, by law, policy, or contract, provide services below those standards without violating federal law.



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Key Principles

- Equal Access – People with disabilities must be able to access the same programs and services as the general population. Access may include modifications to programs, policies, procedures, architecture, equipment, services, supplies, and communication methods.
- Physical Access – People with disabilities must be able to access locations where emergency programs and services are provided.
- Access to Effective Communication – People with disabilities must be given the same information provided to the general population using methods that are understandable and timely.



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Key Principles Continued

- Inclusion – People with disabilities have the right to participate in and receive the benefits of emergency programs, services, and activities provided by governments, private businesses, and nonprofit organizations.
- Integration - Emergency programs, services, and activities typically must be provided in an integrated setting.
- Program Modifications - People with disabilities must have equal access to emergency programs and services, which may entail modifications to rules, policies, practices, and procedures.
- No Charge - People with disabilities may not be charged to cover the costs of measures necessary to ensure equal access and nondiscriminatory treatment.



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Department of Justice Guidance to State and Local Governments

The Americans with Disabilities Act and other laws apply in:

- Preparation
- Notification
- Evacuation and transportation
- Sheltering
- First aid and medical services
- Temporary lodging and housing
- Transition back to the community
- Clean up
- Other emergency- and disaster-related programs, services, and activities



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The Office of Disability Integration and Coordination

Our motto:

“Baking it in, not layering
it on”



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Whole Community



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Whole Community:

Participation of the whole community requires:

- equal access to preparedness activities and programs without discrimination
- meeting the access and functional needs of all individuals
- consistent and active engagement and involvement in all aspects of planning.



The WHOLE Whole Community:

- Individuals who have physical, sensory, behavioral and mental health, intellectual and cognitive disabilities, including individuals who live in the community and individuals who are institutionalized, older adults with and without disabilities, individuals who are from diverse cultures, races and nations of origin; individuals who don't read, have limited English proficiency or are non-English speaking, children with and without disabilities and their parents, individuals who are economically or transportation disadvantaged, women who are pregnant, individuals who have chronic medical conditions, those with pharmacological dependency, other individuals who are often underrepresented or excluded and the social, advocacy and service organizations that serve individuals and communities.



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The words we use:

We hear it all the time – “special needs” and “vulnerable”. Both terms do damage. When people with disabilities are thought of as “special”, they are often thought of as marginal individuals who have needs, not rights. The word “vulnerable” has a similarly unfortunate effect. Vulnerable people must have things done for them; they’re recipients, not participants.

Don’t think ‘special’ or ‘vulnerable;’ think ‘universal access.’ Integrate access into all aspects of emergency services: transportation, sheltering, education, evacuation, etc. And remember that access is a civil right, not a favor or an amenity.



The difference between the right word
and the almost right word is the
difference between lightning and a
lightning bug.

Mark Twain



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Meeting Access and Functional Needs

Individuals with access and functional needs, including those with and without disabilities can be accommodated with actions, services, equipment, accommodations and modifications including physical/architectural, programmatic, and communications modifications. Some individuals with access and functional needs have legal protections including, but not limited to, the right to freedom from discrimination based on race, color, national origin (including limited English proficiency), sex, familial status, age, disability and economic status.

Overall, inclusive planning is expected to increase the community-wide margin of resilience and increase capacity to meet a wide range of disaster related needs utilizing existing resources and reducing dependence on acute medical resources for maintaining health, safety and independence and preventing discrimination.



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Functional Needs vs. Acute Health Care Needs



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Physical Access



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Programmatic Access



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Effective Communications Access



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Functional Needs

C-MIST Framework

- Communication
- Maintaining Health
- Independence
- Safety, services and self-determination
- Transportation



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Assets Not Liabilities



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NOTHING ABOUT US, WITHOUT US



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Partnership



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Personal Responsibility- From Liabilities to Assets:

Personal responsibility before, during and after a disaster applies to people with disabilities just as it applies to people without disabilities. Although ability varies from person to person, educational and outreach efforts, information and tools must be made available, achievable and accessible to everyone.



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FEMA SUPPORT

- Training
- Disability Integration Specialists in every Region
- Durable medical equipment and consumable medical supplies supply cache and IDIQ contracts
- Requirements for “universal” cots
- Personal Assistance Services mission support agreements and private industry contracts, reimbursement fact sheet being finalized.
- MOAs with National Council on Independent Living and their 450 Centers for Independent Living and the National Disability Rights Network and their 57 statewide Protection and Advocacy agencies
- IB on disability integration opportunities in Grant Guidance



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"No doubt you're asking yourself, what are hatches? And how the heck does one go about battening them down?"



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Promising Practices in Preparedness

www.fema.gov/about/odc



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FQS

- Disability Integration Lead (DISL)
- Disability Integration Advisor (DISA)



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INTEGRATION AND COORDINATION

When communities integrate the access and functional needs of children and adults with and without disabilities in all phases of community-wide emergency management, they strengthen their ability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate all hazards.



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